

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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USIA-15 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

NEA-10 EA-09 ACDA-10 IO-11 NRC-07 CEQ-01 EPA-04

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PASS: EUR/RPE FOR SWARTZ, OES FOR KRATZER, ERDA FOR
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SUBJECT: USE OF NEA RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF IEA

1. AT NEXT MEETING OF OECD NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY
STEERING COMMITTEE ON APRIL 29, DOCUMENT NE(76)8 ON
SUBJECT OF NEA INTERACTION WITH IEA WILL BE TABLED FOR
DISCUSSION. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS AND
INSTRUCTIONS SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING SO THAT PRE-MEETING DISCUSSIONS WITH
NEA AND IEA STAFF MAY BE POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE
STEERING COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS:
"AT THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON 8TH
DECEMBER 1975 (CE/M(75)17 - PART I - ITEM 67), THE
DELEGATE FOR AUSTRALIA EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE
AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO NEA MEMBER COUNTRIES WHO
WERE NOT MEMBERS OF IEA ABOUT THE RESULTS OF WORK
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CARRIED OUT BY NEA AT IEA REQUEST. HE THEREFORE ASKED

WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR A MECHANISM TO BE DEvised WHEREBY NEA MEMBERS WERE ADVISED AUTOMATICALLY OF SUCH WORK REQUESTS. IN REPLY TO THIS, THE SECRETARIAT SUGGESTED PROVIDING ROUTINELY AT MEETINGS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH WORK WAS CARRIED OUT ON BEHALF OF IEA; AND THE DELEGATE FOR AUSTRALIA ACCEPTED THIS SUGGESTION.

2. THE BASIC APPROACH TO THIS MATTER, CONFIRMED IN THE STATEMENT ON THE 1976 PROGRAM OF WORK APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL, IS THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A COMPLEMENTARY AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES, WHILE AVOIDING DUPLICATION OF EFFORT. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT IT WAS CONFIRMED DURING 1975 THAT NEA IS IN A POSITION, WITHIN ITS EXISTING MANDATE, TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES CORRESPONDING TO THE COOPERATIVE NEEDS DEFINED BY IEA IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD, BOTH AS REGARDS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENTS OF AN ECONOMIC OR TECHNICAL NATURE. THUS, NEA IS READY, WITH DUE REGARD TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES, TO ADAPT ITS PROGRAM TO FULFIL SUCH NEEDS. IT FOLLOWS THAT PARTICIPATION IN ALL SUCH INNOVATIONS IN THE NEA PROGRAM IS EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL NEA MEMBER COUNTRIES AND, EXCEPT WHERE THESE INVOLVE THE FORMATION WITHIN NEA OF CLOSED GROUPS, THE RESULTS OF THE WORK ARE ALSO AVAILABLE TO ALL NEA MEMBER COUNTRIES.

3. IT WAS IN THIS SENSE THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE AGREED THAT NEA COULD ACCEPT THE INVITATION OF IEA TO UNDERTAKE THE PROGRAM OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT DEFINED IN NE(75)10. THE NEW PROPOSALS WERE EMBODIED WITH THE PREVIOUSLY EXISTING PROGRAM OF NEA IN THIS FIELD AND THE COMBINED RESULT IS NOW BEING CONDUCTED AS A UNIFIED WHOLE. ACCESS TO ALL PARTS OF THIS COMBINED PROGRAM IS OPEN TO ALL NEA MEMBER COUNTRIES.

4. SIMILARLY, IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR SAFETY, ACCEPTANCE OF IEA PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR SAFETY RESEARCH INDEX AND ASSOCIATED REFERENCE LIBRARY UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS BEEN EQUALLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF NON-IEA MEMBER COUNTRIES OF NEA. THE NUCLEAR SAFETY RESEARCH INDEX PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED BY NEA IS NOW BEING CONSIDERABLY DEVELOPED AND ISSUED AS A JOINT NEA/IEA PUBLICATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SERVICING OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF NATIONAL COORDINATORS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IEA MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON THE TECHNICAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN THE FIELD OF

REACTOR SAFETY R AND D IS A TASK TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON BEHALF OF IEA. HOWEVER, SINCE THESE ANNUAL MEETINGS ARE TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH MEETINGS OF THE NEA COMMITTEE ON THE SAFETY OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS, THE EFFORT REQUIRED WILL BE MINIMAL. SIMILAR CONSIDERATIONS ARE LIKELY TO APPLY TO THE SERVICING OF ANY MEETINGS ARRANGED FOR DISCUSSING AND INTERPRETING INFORMATION FROM ANY IEA COOPERATIVE PROJECTS DEVELOPED IN THE NUCLEAR SAFETY FIELD, WHILE IT MUST BE REGARDED

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AS PROBABLE THAT MOST OF THESE RESULTS WILL, IN ANY CASE, ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR MORE GENERAL DISCUSSION. FINALLY, IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR SAFETY, THERE IS A RESIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE SECRETARIAT SERVICES TO THE IEA WORKING PARTY ON NUCLEAR SAFETY. THIS WORKING PARTY IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ITS TASK DURING 1976.

5. THUS, IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (EXCEPT FUSION) A SATISFACTORY AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES HAS APPARENTLY BEEN ACHIEVED; AND THERE IS EVERY REASON TO HOPE THAT THE SAME WILL APPLY TO THE NEW IEA INITIATIVE TO GIVE ATTENTION TO THE APPLICATION OF HTRS FOR PROCESS HEAT, WITH GERMANY AS LEAD COUNTRY. IN RELATION TO ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES, HOWEVER THE SITUATION IS INHERENTLY LESS CLEAR CUT BECAUSE IEA ITSELF NEEDS, IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS WIDER ENERGY STUDIES, TO EVALUATE THE LONG TERM ROLE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY WITHIN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE IEA GROUP OF COUNTRIES. IT FOLLOWS THAT INVESTIGATIONS ANALOGOUS TO THOSE PURSUED BY THE NELT STUDY GROUP, AND REQUIRING DEPLOYMENT OF MUCH THE SAME EXPERTISE, ARE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE WORK OF IEA AND THAT CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT DIVISION AND THE IEA SECRETARIAT IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT WASTEFUL DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.

6. IN GENERAL, THE NEA APPROACH TO THIS COLLABORATION IS TO MAINTAIN THAT STUDIES HAVING A WIDER CONNOTATION THAN THE IEA GROUP OF COUNTRIES SHOULD MORE APPROPRIATELY BE PURSUED BY NELT (IN COLLABORATION, AS APPROPRIATE, WITH IAEA). IT IS IN THIS SENSE THAT THE IEA COMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT HAS NOW RECOGNIZED THAT URANIUM PROSPECTING R AND D SHOULD MORE APPROPRIATELY BE PURSUED BY NEA AND HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE WORK INITIATED BY IEA, WITH THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AS LEAD ORGANIZATION, SHOULD NOW BE EMBODIED INTO THE NEA PROGRAM (SEE ALSO NE(76)5). DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING ON THE APPROPRIATE BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES CONCERNING QUESTIONS OF REPROCESSING POLICY.

7. THIS GENERAL APPROACH IMPLIES AN OBLIGATION TO CONTRIBUTE FOR CONSIDERATION BY IEA BODIES RELEVANT COMPILATIONS OR EVALUATIONS DRAWN FROM WIDER STUDIES. IN THIS SENSE A PAPER WAS PREPARED AND CIRCULATED ON 10TH FEBRUARY 1976 FOR THE IEA SUB-GROUP ON ENRICHED URANIUM SUPPLY ON THE URANIUM AND SEPARATIVE WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR IEA COUNTRIES. THE TOTAL EFFORT REQUIRED AMOUNTED TO LESS THAN ONE MAN MONTH OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF EFFORT.

8. THE STEERING COMMITTEE IS INVITED TO TAKE NOTE OF THIS REPORT ON THE USE OF NEA RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF IEA."

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